

ABSTRACT

Conventional Internet access service and new computer programs are added to a conventional telephone central office. This system is able to alert a subscriber whose telephone line is connected to the Internet of a waiting call via the Internet access connection.

Specifically, in response to a call that is waiting for a subscriber, the system establishes a new communication with the subscriber using the Internet access connection and new programs in the subscriber's data terminal. The system then notifies the subscriber of the waiting call via the Internet access connection. The system may then forward the telephone call to the subscriber via the Internet access connection responsive to a subscriber's request to do so without terminating the subscriber's Internet connection, or the subscriber may choose to answer the call in a conventional manner, or may select another option in response to the call notification.